

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the interview held with Examiner Masinick and his kind insights and suggestions.

Claim 1 has been formally amended consistent with that interview.

The invention comprises an installation for the treatment of products. The installation includes product containers equipped with RF emitting means that supply product identification information. The workstation is also equipped with an RF emitting means that supplies workstation identification information.

An information system includes a wireless component worn by an operator. That component includes an antenna that receives the RF waves emitted by the two emitting means so that the component receives both the product identification information and the workstation identification information. The component also includes a wireless transmitting means that transmits the received product identification information and the workstation identification information to an information processing unit so that the information processing unit combines the product and workstation identification information and stores

the combined product and workstation identification information in a database.

As discussed during the interview, the invention as claimed is believed both novel and non-obvious.

Claim 1 stands rejected under §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The claim has been amended to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Indeed, the component is not currently fitted on the garment and is adapted to be at some future time fitted on the garment. Accordingly, the claim is believed clear and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 1-6 and 12-20 stand rejected as anticipated by MANN et al. 6,614,351.

Claims 7-11 and 21-23 stand rejected as obvious over MANN et al. in view of WORNER et al. UK 2 371 722.

The dependent claims are believed allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim. Further, the independent claim is believed to be both novel and nonobvious over the prior art and specifically over the applied art.

Applicants acknowledge that the claims are read broadly onto the prior art. However, each feature within a recitation must be considered.

In this regard, the Official Action has (page 2, paragraph 2.) offered the palette on which the packages are situated as the recited workstation, or the room in which the

packages are arriving at the recited workstation. See that claim 1 requires the "workstation ... [be] equipped with means for emitting radiofrequency waves to supply workstation identification information,". That is, there must be a means for emitting radio frequency waves to supply identification information of the workstation.

In MANN, only the products 9 themselves are provided with means for emitting RF waves, i.e., RFID tags 11. Therefore, the only identification information relates to the products and not to the workstation.

See also the claim 1 recitation concerning "means for transmitting ... identification information received from the means for emitting radiofrequency waves so that the information processing unit combines the product and workstation identification information and stores it in the database,".

For this recitation, the Official Action has referred to the MANN abstract, reproduced below (emphasis added):

A worker carries a sensor that **senses a tag device**, preferably a passive RFID tag, **in or on an article being processed**. The sensor obtains wirelessly from the tag device identifying data, such as a numerical tag, which has been recorded as corresponding to a specific article. A computer connected with the receiver uses the identifying data to obtain a network address on a computer data network. Data relating to the worker contact with the article is sent over the network to the address accessed, and the server, or a management computer attached to it, causes a record to be stored reporting the access regarding the article, and other bookkeeping or process control activities are performed as claimed.

Although there is disclosed that the products have RFID tags so that the sensor carried by the worker can receive and transmit product identification information, there is no disclosure of any workstation "means for emitting radiofrequency waves to supply workstation identification information" and there is no disclosure of sensors (worn by the worker) including any "means for transmitting ... identification information received from the means for emitting radiofrequency waves so that the information processing unit **combines the product and workstation identification information** and stores it in the database,".

Accordingly, MANN does not anticipate.

WORNER is offered as disclosing plural zones accepting RFID tagged products, each zone comprising an antenna for "selective excitation" of the RFIDs within the site (OA page 7, paragraph 20.).

The Official Action (paragraph 21.) concludes that it would have been obvious to use the storage system of WORNER as a workstation in order to ascertain which zone of the storage device a product is stored.

In this regard, WORNER discloses a freezer with shelves 4 (zones). Each shelf is provided with an antenna 6 for receiving information emitted by tags carried by objects to be stored in the freezer. But each shelf is not provided with a means for emitting radiofrequency waves to supply workstation

identification information, or, put another way, to supply identification information of the shelves.

The antennas only forward the product information and do not generate signals to an identification signal of the shelves. Thus, WORNER fails to provide the features missing from MANN.


Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious. In view of the above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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